

NSC BRIEFING CONFIDENTIAL 8 December 1954

SWITCH IN BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT

- I. Reports from Bavaria concerning formation of right-left coalition state government probably indicate inter-party maneuvering for control.

Washington experts believe such coalition has less than even chance of success.

- II. Reported formation new coalition government in Bavaria, which would exclude Adenauer's Christian Social Union (CSU), would mean ADENAUER could no longer count on two-thirds majority in West German Bundesrat (Upper House).

- A. Such majority required for passage

"Constitutional issues", and possible that forthcoming Saar and rearmament votes could be presented this way.

- B. Adenauer would still retain simple majority in Bundesrat.

- III. New Coalition (Socialists, Communists, and

conservative-liberal combination Bavarian and

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Party and Refugee Party) apparently results from failure Adenauer's CSU make attractive enough offer for alternate grouping.

A. CSU right-wingers have opposed renewal of former coalition with Socialists, which held power past four years.

B. However, CSU apparently unable woo Bavarian and Refugee Parties into new grouping.

IV. Strong conditions of new coalition make future of Bavarian Government in unstable case.